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31. (Amended) The continuously variable transmission of claim 30, wherein:

the guide member comprises fiberglass.

courd

32. (Amended) The continuously variable transmission of claim 30, wherein:

the guide member comprises carbon fiber.

41. (Amended) The continuously variable transmission of claim 40, wherein:

the chamber is disposed between the inner and outer halves, and

the change in gas pressure results from the application of a predetermined vacuum to the chamber.

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42. (Amended) The continuously variable transmission of claim 41, wherein:

the vacuum is supplied by an engine.

43. (Amended) The continuously variable transmission of claim 41, wherein:

the vacuum is supplied by a vacuum pump.

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44. (Amended) The continuously variable transmission of claim 43, further comprising:

a pressure connector attached to the shaft,

wherein the pressure connector is operatively connected to the chamber.

courd

45. (Amended) The continuously variable transmission of claim 40, wherein:

the chamber is disposed adjacent to either the inner or the outer half, and
the change in gas pressure results from the introduction of a predetermined
pressure to the chamber.

46. (Amended) The continuously variable transmission of claim 45, further comprising:

a pressure connector attached to the shaft,

wherein the pressure connector is operatively connected to the chamber.